

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of:
Thomas J. Foster, et al.

POST RIP IMAGE RENDERING IN AN
ELECTROGRAPHIC PRINTER TO
ESTIMATE TONER CONSUMPTION

Serial No. 10/784,515

Filed 23 February 2004

Group Art Unit: 2626

Examiner: Mark E. Wallerson

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(For Extensions of Time and other Petitions to the Assistant Commissioner)

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.



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AMENDMENT

1. – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A method of estimating toner consumption an input digital image when printed, the digital image comprised of an array of pixels and wherein each pixel is assigned a digital value representing marking information, the method comprising the steps of:

defining each pixel as background pixels or foreground pixels comprised of interior pixels and edge pixel;

reassigning the digital value of one or more edge pixels or interior pixels independently;

adding the digital values of foreground pixels together; and,
estimating toner usage based on the sum of the added values.

5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the digital image is a binary image.